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BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1950

MERVYN THOMAS, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.

Medical Officer of Health.

Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex.

District and School Medical Officer, Mid-Essex.

Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital.

CHELMSFORD :

JOHN DODDSON PUBLISHING, 9, Lindal Street and 31, High Street.

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BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. MERVYN THOMAS, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.

Clerk :

J. A. G. POTTER

appointed 6-11-50.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

R. F. WYNN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors :

E. ALTY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

H. FIELD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

R. PRICHARD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Department :

Clerks :

S. V. EDWARDS.

L. AINSWORTH,

Resigned 13/10/50.

T. H. CARTER.

Appointed 16-10-50.

Veterinary Inspector (part-time) :

Mr. H. G. McSHANE, M.R.C.V.S.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

r. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in submitting my twelfth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, and in reminding you that this report commemorates the half-century. I think it not out of place, therefore, to include a history of the incorporation of the Borough which has been extracted from Standing Orders, 1935.

The estimated home population of Chelmsford M.B. was 37,250, and the 1951 preliminary census figure is 37,888, this figure representing 18,456 males and 19,432 females.

Also attached is a list of the death rate of infants under one year of age for the years commencing 1907 to date.

The year under review is memorable for its continued absence of disease, particularly in respect of diphtheria, for which there was no case notified in the Borough; and for the absence of deaths in children from measles, whooping cough and diarrhoea. There were only four cases of confirmed poliomyelitis notified and there were no deaths. There was also an absence of typhoid and enteric fevers. Of the ~~one hundred and~~ ^{three hundred and} ~~thirty-four~~ deaths during the year ninety-eight were in people over the age of sixty-five years and forty-seven between the ages of fifty-five and sixty-five. Of these four were due to road traffic accidents which should be considered avoidable. Deaths from cancer continue as the one disease causing the major number of deaths. It is noted also that there were no recorded cases of food poisoning during the year, but this does not mean that there were no isolated cases which either did not consult a doctor, or returned to health unaided.

Your officers continue to watch the sale of food, which includes the sale and distribution of ice cream, carefully, and also the ever-increasing numbers of ice cream vendors.

Reading through the early Minutes of the various committees of the beginning of the Century it is interesting to note that in 1900 the population was 12,250, the births 94, while deaths at all ages were 247 with 35 under one year of age. The number of inhabited houses was 2,755 with an average number of 4.61 persons per house. No school or premises has been closed for many years in the Borough for any infectious diseases, although the British Schools and St. John's Schools were both closed for scarlet fever in 1905. It is a pleasant thought that in this same year the Borough Surveyor was instructed to issue the usual "Christmas Beef" to the workmen.

In 1907 the General Rate was 3/4d. in the £ and the Water Rate 6d. in the £. In the year under review the Council were engaged with complaints concerning the refuse tip at Victoria Road, but I would remind them that these same complaints were recorded in the Minutes of November, 1907, when tipping took place in a field adjoining Beehive Lane, and presented the same difficulties. In this same year the Education Committee considered the question of medical inspection for school children,

which was rendered necessary under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act 1907, and the first School Medical Officer, Dr. H. W. Newton, was appointed in 1907. Also, a special committee was set up for housing of the working classes.

The early Century also had its problems, for in 1908 a day school lecture to the Borough Schools on the "Evils of cigarette smoking" was ordered, and in the previous year the Council's attention was drawn to the language and conduct of drivers and conductors on race days.

Chelmsford Borough was its own Authority for the School Medical Service under the Education Act (1907) and Education Act (1921), and for Maternity and Child Welfare Service, Maternity and Child Welfare Act (1918), from the time of its inception until the transfer of these services in the Education Act, 1944, and the National Health Service Act, 1948, to the Essex County Council. It is well to have in mind that the School Medical Officer was similarly transferred for these services and, therefore, the continuous co-ordination of the Borough arrangements for School Health and Maternity and Child Welfare carry on without interruption.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. B. A. Francis, the Town Clerk, and Mr. Wm. Young, the Water Engineer, for their special information, and also the Borough Engineer and Officers of the Corporation for the information supplied on request, of which has been incorporated in this report. My thanks go also to my Chairman, Mr. W. W. Farthing the Deputy Mayor, and to the Health Committee, for all their support.

J. MERVYN THOMAS,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Extract from Standing Orders, etc., 1935.

CHELMSFORD.

History of the Incorporation of the Borough.

PREFATORY NOTE. Chelmsford was governed from 1789 until 1850 by Commissioners elected under the Local Acts, 29, George III, cap. xlv (1789) and 3 George IV, cap. lix, (1822) and from 2nd September, 1850, until 9th November, 1888, by a Local Board of Health created by a Provisional Order made on 22nd May, 1850, by the General Board of Health, which Order was confirmed by the Public Health Supplemental Act, 1850 (13 and 14 Vict., cap. xxxii). Further particulars of these Local Acts are given on page 87).

In 1886, when the inhabitants of Chelmsford met to consider a scheme for commemorating the Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign, a suggestion was made to apply for a Charter of Incorporation as a permanent memorial of the great historic event, but the idea was poorly supported. However, in February, 1887, Mr. A. J. Furbank, solicitor, of Chelmsford, issued a series of reasons why the county town should be incorporated. A public meeting to discuss the desirability of petitioning Her Majesty for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation was held in the Corn Exchange on 1st March, 1887, and attended by about 500 ratepayers, when the Ven. Archdeacon of Essex presided, and the following resolution was carried by a large majority :—

“That it is desirable that the town of Chelmsford should be incorporated under the Municipal Corporation Acts.”

By the end of May nearly 1,100 ratepayers had appended their names to a petition to the Privy Council in favour of the proposal.

Meanwhile, a counter petition was drawn up and 345 signatures were obtained against the granting of the Charter. The Local Board of Health were approached, but they declined to support or oppose the proposal.

The Incorporation party then pressed forward with the project, and the signatures in favour of the movement were soon raised to 1,500. The petition was presented on 24th November, 1887, and an inquiry into the question was opened at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, on 14th February, 1888, before the Hon. T. H. W. Pelham, the Commissioner appointed by the Privy Council.

Very great interest was taken in the inquiry by all classes and the proceedings lasted three days. On 11th August, 1888, notice was received that Queen Victoria, at a Council held at Osborne the previous day, had approved of the draft Charter and scheme. The Charter is dated 7th September, 1888, and divided the Borough into two Wards—North and South, and provided that the number of Aldermen should be six and the number of Councillors eighteen.

A great demonstration was held on 19th September, 1888, on the reception of the Charter in Chelmsford. On 1st November, 1888, the first municipal election took place, and on 9th November, the newly constituted Council met for the first time.

Alterations of the Boundaries of the Borough.

(1) The Local Government Board, by an Order numbered 23,834, and dated 10th December, 1888, made under “The Divided Parishes and Poor Law Amendment

Act, 1876 " as amended and extended by " The Poor Law Act, 1879 ", transferred, as from 24th March, 1889, an isolated and detached part of the Parish of Chelmsford (containing 113 acres) to the Parish of Broomfield; and another isolated and detached part of the Parish of Chelmsford (containing 436 acres) to the Parish of Writtle.

(2) A small portion of the Parish of Writtle, lying to the east of the railway line and to the north of the Writtle Road, was added to the South Ward of the Borough by the Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 7) Act, 1897.

(3) In 1906 the Town Council made a representation to the Local Government Board under section 54 of the Local Government Act, 1888, with reference to the Borough boundaries being altered so as to include certain portions of the parishes of Broomfield, Springfield, Great Baddow, Widford, and Writtle, all within the Rural District of Chelmsford and adjacent to the Borough. On 16th January, 1907, a public inquiry with respect to the representation was opened at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, before Major C. E. Norton, R.E., one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board.

The proposal was strongly opposed by the Rural District Council and the Authorities of the adjoining Parishes.

The Chelmsford Corporation, the Chelmsford Rural District Council, and the Parish Council of Springfield were represented by Counsel. The inquiry extended over four days, and the Local Government Board in April, 1907, issued a Draft Provisional Order which provided that it should come into operation on 9th Nov., 1907, and that the boundary of the existing Borough should be extended to include all that portion of Springfield parish applied for under the Corporation's scheme, also part of the Waterhouse Estate, and a piece of land near Admiral's Park tower, both in the Parish of Writtle. The proposal to include portions of Great Baddow, Broomfield and Widford was not entertained by the Board. The Order also provided that the number of Councillors of the Borough should be increased from 18 to 24 and the number of Aldermen from six to eight, and that a new Ward, termed the Springfield Ward should be constituted.

The part of the Waterhouse Estate transferred from Writtle parish was added to the South Ward, and the piece of land near Admirals Park, also transferred from Writtle parish was added to the North Ward, while the newly-constituted Springfield Ward was to consist of the added part of Springfield Parish. Under the scheme six Councillors were assigned to the Springfield Ward, and it was directed that the two new Aldermen, to be elected on 9th November, 1907, should be chosen from among the Councillors elected for that Ward, or from among persons qualified to be Councillors whose qualifying property was situate in the Springfield Ward.

The Chelmsford Rural District Council opposed the confirmation of the Order by Parliament. The opposition was restricted to the inclusion of part of the Parish of Springfield, and after an inquiry which lasted four days the House of Commons Committee unanimously decided to include in the Borough a lesser part of Springfield than that referred to in the Order. The result of the decision was (approximately) that the acreage of the Springfield area originally scheduled was reduced from 1,732 to 637.4 acres, and the population from 3,515 to 3,301 persons, while the rateable value was only reduced from £17,221 to £16,087. As to Writtle, the area originally asked

or was (approximately) reduced by the Local Government Board from 415 to 227 acres, and the rateable value from £3,753 to £3,107, while the population remained at 1905.

The Rural District Council continued their opposition to the Order when it came before the House of Lords Committee who confirmed the decision of the Commons Committee.

The Royal Assent was given to the Bill on 28th August, 1907.

(4) In 1932 the Essex County Council completed and forwarded to the Ministry of Health a review of the County Districts which they were required to make under the Local Government Act, 1929, and which so far as it affected the Borough of Chelmsford, provided for the enlargement of the Borough by the addition of portions of the Parishes of Broomfield, Springfield, Widford and Writtle, of a total approximate area of 1,525 acres. An amended proposal was submitted by the Borough Council to the Ministry of Health for the inclusion in the Borough, in addition to the areas proposed by the Essex County Council, of Galleywood, forming part of the Parish of Great Baddow and containing an area of approximately 998 acres.

On the 26th October, 1932, a Public Inquiry into the review was commenced at Chelmsford by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health. On the 10th May, 1933, a notification was received from the Ministry of Health that the Minister had decided to confirm the proposals submitted by the Essex County Council subject to a slight modification of the boundary line in Springfield and Writtle. *The Essex Review Order, 1934, made by the Minister giving effect to these proposals, came into operation on the 1st April, 1934.*

Arising out of this extension, a petition was presented to His Majesty under Section 25 of the Local Government Act, 1933, by the Borough Council, for an alteration of the number and boundaries of the wards, and under a scheme, dated 10th April, 1935, and approved by His Majesty on the 4th May, 1935, the Borough was divided into four wards, to be known as the North, East, South and West Wards, and the existing 24 Councillors were assigned to such wards in equal proportion.

Page 87.

List of Local Acts.

1789—29 Geo. III cap. xlv.

“An Act for paving the Footways of the several Streets Public Passages and Places within the Town of Chelmsford and Hamlet of Moulsham in the Parish of Chelmsford in the County of Essex and for Cleansing Lighting and Watching the said town and Hamlet and for removing and preventing Nuisances Annoyances and Inroads therein.”

This Act, except Sections 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 46, was repealed by Article 7 of the Provisional Order made by the General Board of Health on 2nd May, 1850, applying the Public Health Act, 1848, to the Parish of Chelmsford which Order was confirmed by the undermentioned Public Health Supplemental Act, 1850. See also Article XIII of the Borough of Chelmsford Extension Order, 1897, and Articles X and XI of the Chelmsford (Extension) Order, 1907.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Appended is a list of all figures of Infant Mortality, under one year of age, of all infants per 1,000 live births, since the year 1907.

INFANT MORTALITY—1907-1950.

1907	..	..	..	60.00
1908	..	..	..	67.64
1909	..	..	..	52.51
1910	..	..	..	50.29
1911	..	..	..	102.7
1912	..	..	..	69.4
1913	..	..	..	57.94
1914	..	..	..	89.26
1918	..	..	..	70.5
1919	..	..	..	56.8
1920	..	..	..	55.4
1921	..	..	..	44.2
1922	..	..	..	42.44
1923	..	..	..	59.62
1924	..	..	..	38.12
1925	..	..	..	27.19
1926	..	..	..	68.18
1927	..	..	..	52.19
1928	..	..	..	48.39
1929	..	..	..	69.59
1930	..	..	..	41.7
1931	..	..	..	48.54
1932	..	..	..	20.62
1933	..	..	..	55.86
1934	..	..	..	47.85
1935	..	..	..	31.86
1936	..	..	..	51.34
1937	..	..	..	35.84
1938	..	..	..	31.11
1939	..	..	..	16.63
1940	..	..	..	57.25
1941	..	..	..	42.54
1942	..	..	..	32.35
1943	..	..	..	33.1
1944	..	..	..	38.09
1945	..	..	..	45.45
1946	..	..	..	54.28
1947	..	..	..	25.97
1948	..	..	..	29.27
1949	..	..	..	19.93
1950	..	..	..	25.09

CIRCULARS, ETC., RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Circular.	Number.	Title.
Ministry of Health Circular ..	7/50	.. Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1950.
Ministry of Health Statutory Instruments, 1950	6	.. Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1950.
Ministry of Health Memorandum ..	Part 10	.. Health Control at Airports.
Ministry of Health Circular ..	11/50	.. Welfare of Old People.
National Health Service Act, 1946	Section 28	.. Proposed arrangements for prevention of illness, care and after care, First Supplementary Proposal (Vaccination against Tuberculosis).
Ministry of Food Circular ..	M.F.2/50	.. Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950
Ministry of Food Memorandum	No. 2	.. Whalemeat. Memorandum on a System of Inspection and Hygiene of Whalemeat Production.
Ministry of Food Circular ..	M.F.4/50	.. Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regulations 1950. Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950
Statutory Instruments, 1950, Food and Drugs, England	409	.. The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950
Statutory Instruments, 1950, Food and Drugs, England	410	.. The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
The Central Council for Health Education Circular	Ex. 101	.. Exhibition Set.
Do. ..	Ex. 201	.. Exhibition Furniture.
Ministry of Food Circular ..	M.F.9/50	.. The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Ministry of Health Circular ..	93005/3/241B 93005/11/5	Clean Food Campaign— (1) Film “Fly about the House.” (2) Leaflet “Insect Pests in Catering Establishments.” (Reprint).
Ministry of Labour and National Service Circular	S.H.W.803106/25	The Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) (Amendment) Order, 1950.

Circular.	Number.	Title.
Ministry of Food Circular ..	M.C.11/50 ..	Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.
The Central Council for Health Education Circular Letter, 16th June, 1950		.. Food and Drink Infections. Further correspondence and a draft programme for a Food and Drink Infections Conference at Olympia on 31st August, 1950
Ministry of Food Circular ..	M.F.14/50 ..	The Milk (Special Designations Act, 1949. The Milk (Special Designations Regulations, 1949. The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.
Ministry of Food Circular ..	M.F.17/50 ..	Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Approved Oxidising and Preservative Agents.
Ministry of Health Circular ..	98/50 ..	Civil Defence Act, 1948. The Civil Defence (Burial) Regulations 1949. (Statutory Instrument 1949. No. 2145.)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA (in acres)	..	..	4,755.
POPULATION, 1950	..	{	37,250 (Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year). (Census, 1951—37,888). 26,537 (Census, 1931).
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1950) according to Rate Books			10,432
RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1950)			£374,608
NUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (year ending 31st March, 1950)	..	..	.. £1,495

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.		Total.		Male.		Female.			
Live Births	{	Legitimate	..	491	..	273	..	218	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid-1950—13.72
		Illegitimate	..	20	..	11	..	9	
		Totals	..	511	..	284	..	227	
Still Births	{	Legitimate	..	7	..	3	..	4	} Rate per 1,000 live and still births— 13.51.
		Illegitimate	..	—	..	—	..	—	
		Totals	..	7	..	3	..	4	
DEATHS	363	..	179	..	184	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —9.74

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Maternal causes	..	..	..	..	..	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 births	..	..	..	..	25.09
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	18.33
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	200
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	68
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years of age)	..	..	..	..	Nil.

DEATHS.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
13	1	—	3	4	7	11	15	47	98	164

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1950.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	3	6
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	12	15
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	21	35
Leukæmia aleukæmia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	30	51
Coronary disease angina	42	20	62
Hypertension with heart disease	2	5	7
Other heart disease	25	41	66
Other circulatory disease	8	6	14
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	5	12
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	5	2	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	17	37
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	2	3	5
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	179	184	363

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH—1950.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950.

(Provisional figures based on quarterly returns.)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
<i>ths.</i> Live	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
<i>ths.</i> All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
<i>fifications (corrected).</i> Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)— Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Non-Paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
<i>ths.</i> All causes under one year of age	29.8 (a)	33.8	29.4	26.3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
<i>fifications (corrected).</i> Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ..	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03
Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.				
International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		Rates per million women aged 15-44	
1 Abortion with Sepsis	0.09		7	
0,652 Other Abortion	0.05		4	
0-649, 670-678 Complication of Pregnan- cy and Delivery	0.54			
11 Sepsis of Childbirth and the Puerperium	0.03			
0, 682-689 Other Complications of the Puerperium	0.15			

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY (See Page 1).

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Ministry of Health Circulars and Amendments, etc., received during the year are tabulated elsewhere.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) *Care of Expectant Mothers.* Regular Ante-Natal Clinics are held in Chelmsford at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coval Lane, where medical and nursing advice is available.

(b) *Care of Young Children up to School Age.* Child Welfare Clinics continue to operate in the Borough, and serve the Springfield, Boarded Barns and Widford Estate as well as the central area.

Voluntary immunisation against diphtheria, and voluntary vaccination against small-pox are available. The Borough also has the advantage that combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also available.

Children requiring treatment are referred to the General Practitioners or Hospitals, etc. Orthopaedic and Eye Clinics are held at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coval Lane; a Dental Clinic is also available for the toddlers.

(c) *Care of School Children.* Routine School Medical Inspections are carried out, and all children requiring attention are referred for treatment. Also available is specialist treatment such as Child Guidance, Speech Therapy and special facilities for the ascertainment of the defective child, e.g. partially deaf, partially blind or mentally sub-normal.

HEALTH VISITING.

A full complement of Health Visitors to advise the mothers and young of the town at the Welfare Centres, Schools and by visits to their homes.

HOME NURSING AND DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

These Services are carried out by the Home Nurses and Midwives resident in the area :—

Home Nurses—

Mrs. E. Mason, 6, St. Mildreds Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 2619.
Mrs. M. B. Palmer, 54A, Hill Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 2354.
Mrs. D. Rawlinson, 65, Fifth Avenue, Chelmsford. Tel. 4943.
Miss E. Redcliffe, 224, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 5095.

Midwives—

Mrs. J. M. Aldred, 13, Queensland Crescent, Chelmsford. Tel. 331.
Miss E. M. Miller, 10, St. Mildreds Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 3816.
Mrs. M. E. Ritchie, 3, Ruskin Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 3815.
Miss M. A. Wilkins, 50, Bruce Grove, Chelmsford.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The Domestic Help Service is increasing in its scope. At first the facilities afforded were confined to acute illness, but now more and more applications are coming forward from the chronic sick. The Service is not provided free of cost but by an assessment; applications to be made to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The whole of the Ambulance Service is now under the control of the Essex County Council, and is available during the whole twenty-four hours, on application to the County Ambulance Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford, or phone 2543 during office hours, and 4388 in emergencies.

CARE OF THE AGED AND INFIRM.

Limited facilities are available at the St. John's Hospital.

OFFICES PERFORMED.

There is no statutory obligation to make arrangements in connection with the termination of last offices, but information has been sought and it is recommended that Health Visitors and District Nurse Midwives have the names of suitable people in their possession who undertake this work. Information may also be obtained from the Public Health Department.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Laboratory Service is provided by the Essex County Council, but the tap swimming pool water is under the supervision of the Borough Analyst at the Water Department, there are also available the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Milk samples from the district are also examined, by arrangement with the Essex County Council, through the services provided by the Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle, near Chelmsford; foodstuffs are examined by the Public Analyst to the Essex County Council.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NORTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

The Hospitals in our town are under the guidance of the Regional Hospital Board under the direct administration of the Management Committee, Group 18. These hospitals provide medical, surgical and special treatment, and include the Isolation Hospital. A Chest Clinic is available at the Broomfield Sanatorium and sessions are held at the following times:—

Monday	..	..	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday	..	..	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, this Council provides the general medical, dental, pharmaceutical and supplementary ophthalmic services through the various doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians in the area.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total on Page 19 shows the incidence and age distribution of cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, notified in the Borough of Chelmsford during 1950.

The following are noted :—

(a) *Diphtheria*. A continued absence of either notifications or clinical cases during the year, and for many years previous to this.

(b) *Measles*. The total number of cases notified was 566 during the year, there were no deaths. This was part of a widespread epidemic in the county.

(c) *Scarlet Fever*. This continues to be a very mild disease, and there were only 8 cases notified during the year; there were no deaths.

(d) *Whooping Cough*. The total number of cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year was 53; there were no deaths.

(e) *Acute Poliomyelitis*. During the year there were 4 cases of confirmed poliomyelitis notified in the Borough of Chelmsford. The first case occurred on the 17th April, 1950, the last being notified on the 18th October, 1950.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The quality of the water has at all times been of a satisfactory nature for public supply purposes.

During the past year the quantity of water available has been sufficient to meet the needs of the Borough.

Bacteriological examinations are made daily of the treated water as it leaves Sandford Mill Pumping Station and frequent analyses are made of the raw water. Frequent samples are also taken from the Service Reservoir and at certain points in the distribution system. These have in all cases proved satisfactory. Independent analyses are made regularly by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

No contamination has occurred after treatment.

All properties within the area of supply have mains supply direct to the premises with the exception of the following :—

Writtle Road—

"Bedfords"	..	..	..	..	..	1
"Hillcroft"	..	..	..	..	..	1

Water is available at stopcocks but services have not been picked up.

Horse and Groom Lane—

No. 2, Ivy Cottages	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	3

Supply by means of Stand-pipes Nil.

WORKS LAID DURING YEAR.

Aluminium Bungalow Site, Beeches Road	..	(a) Soil sewers— 486 yards, 6in. diameter 312 yards, 9in. diameter (b) Surface water sewers— 493 yards, 6in. diameter 323 yards, 9in. diameter
Springfield Park Estate	..	(a) Soil sewers— 139 yards, 9in. diameter (b) Surface water sewers— 191 yards, 9in. diameter
Chignal Estate (Site 7A)	..	(a) Soil sewers— 34 yards, 4in. diameter 2,488 yards 6in. diameter 410 yards, 9in. diameter (b) Surface water sewers— 2,516 yards, 6in. diameter 1,369 yards, 9in. diameter 419 yards, 12in. diameter 74 yards, 15 in. diameter 120 yards, 21 in. diameter 167 yards, 24in. diameter

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A close watch is kept on the rivers within the Borough and all possible steps taken to prevent pollution.

DETAILS OF EXISTING AND NEW WORKS OF THE WATER UNDERTAKING.

The existing works comprise three boreholes from which water is abstracted from Thanet Sand Beds situated at Galleywood, Admirals Park and Hall Street. There are also surface springs at Burgess Well and Admirals Park. The average total yield from such sources is .259 m.g.d.

The main source of supply is the River Chelmer, from which the Corporation has permission to abstract 1.5 m.g.d. at their Sandford Mill Pumping Station.

The water from the springs and boreholes is chlorinated and pumped direct into the supply. The water from Sandford Mill is purified and softened by the excess lime process and pressure filters, and is pumped to a service reservoir (800,000 gallons) at Sandford Mill.

The future of the boreholes and springs is under consideration by the Water Committee at the present time.

A reorganisation scheme for the whole of the Undertaking was approved by the Water Committee in 1947, and is now in the process of implementation. Such scheme provides for a new Treatment Plant at Sandford Mill embodying preliminary clarification of the river water, followed by storage and final clarification and softening (reduction of hardness).

of permanent and temporary hardness), rapid gravity filtration and sterilisation break-point chlorination.

New machinery is being installed in the existing Engine House to pump the water through a new 18in. pumping main to a new Service Reservoir situated at Galleywood having a capacity of 6 m.g.

Trunk Mains of 21in., 18in. and 12in. diameters are being laid from this reservoir into the town for the purpose of improving the distribution system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There was no change in the method of refuse collection during 1950.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(1) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	280
(2) By other Statutory Authorities	..	..	..	..	8
(3) Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	55

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Disease	Total cases	Under 1 year	NOTIFICATION AT AGES										Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Total cases notified in each Ward			
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65		North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward
Scarlet Fever ..	8	—	1	—	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	1
Measles ..	566	8	109	77	73	130	164	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	224	67	194	81
Whooping Cough ..	53	—	4	8	11	13	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	15	18	8
Pneumonia ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	2	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	1	6	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Polio-Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	2	—	2	1	—	3	3	2	2
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	653	8	114	85	86	145	188	3	7	10	1	4	2	—	148	95	216	94

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 "	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 "	8	7	—	2	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 "	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 55 "	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 "	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Over 65 "	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	16	10	4	3	5	1	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, COMPILED FROM THE REGISTER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1950.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			PULMONARY and NON-PULMONARY TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
(1) Number of cases on the Register on the 1st January, 1950	198	114	312	85	78	163	475
(2) Number of cases notified to me under the Regulations for the first time during the year	13	10	23	3	3	6	29
(3) Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to my notice otherwise than by notification	3	—	3	1	—	1	4
(4) Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	5	1	6	—	—	—	6
(5) Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1950	209	123	332	89	81	170	502

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Deaths
No. Notified	Treated					
	At Home	Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

WORK CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects :—

Public Health Act	622	} 895
Housing Act	273	

- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose :—

Public Health Act	984	} 2,187
Housing Act	1,203	

- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1

- (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation :—

Public Health Act	93	} 271
Housing Act	178	

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority's Officers :—

Public Health Act	79	} 228
Housing Act	149	

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Demolition orders issued 1
 (2) Demolition orders complied with —
 (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 2
 (4) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— ..
 (a) By owners 3
 (b) By the Local Authority in default of owners .. . 1

Caravans removed	1
Library books fumigated	55
External decorations carried out	1
Smoke nuisance abated	1
Washing facilities provided	18
Premises cleansed and redecorated	3
W.c. Compartments cleansed	2
Cloakrooms provided	1

THE FOLLOWING INSPECTIONS HAVE BEEN RECORDED.

600 complaints have been investigated.

2,205 inspections made at dwelling houses.

428	„	„	at dwelling houses prior to rehousing.
65	„	„	at dirty or verminous houses.
51	„	„	of tents, vans, or sheds.
141	„	„	of public houses.
3	„	„	of schools.
18	„		and enquiries made in connection with infectious disease.
22	„		made in connection with pollution of watercourses.
31	„	„	in respect of smoke nuisances.
2	„	„	of land and ditches.
23	„	„	of offices.
54	„	„	at butchers' shops.
150	„	„	cafes, restaurants and hotels.
187	„	„	dairies and milkshops.
9	„	„	farms.
400	„	„	food shops.
1,125	„	„	slaughterhouses.
242	„	„	ice cream premises.

In many cases during these inspections matters relating to minor defects and nuisances were dealt with verbally and remedies carried out in response to persuasive methods.

The following carcases were examined at the two Government controlled slaughterhouses :—5,455 beasts, 2,788 calves, 8,356 sheep, 822 pigs.

And the total weight of meat condemned was :—133,627 lbs.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle and Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	5,455	2,788	8,356	822
Number inspected	5,455	2,788	8,356	822
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcasses condemned ..	19	16	30	26
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,468	27	534	77
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	27.3	1.5	6.8	12.5
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcasses condemned ..	62	7	—	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,217	—	—	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	23.5	0.2	—	7.2

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

<i>Total number of outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each</i>	<i>Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each</i>
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The following samples were obtained and submitted for analysis, all unsatisfactory results being followed up :—

		Samples taken.		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Milk (ungraded)	26	..	16	..	10
Pasteurised milk	139	..	139	..	—
Tuberculin tested milk ..	3	..	3	..	—
Tuberculin tested milk pasteurised	2	..	2	..	—
Ice cream	207	..	179	..	28
Bottle rinsings	17	..	14	..	3

Restaurants, food shops, kitchens, etc., and all places where food is prepared have been carefully supervised during the year by the Sanitary Authority. There have been no reports of food poisoning brought to the notice of the Public Health Department.

The following food has been condemned and surrendered as unfit :—

590	tins milk	228	tins tomatoes.
3,772	tins vegetables.	17	tins fruit juice.
126	tins soup.	2	tins marron glaces.
603	tins fish.	257	tins fruit.
121	tins fish paste.	2	tins peanut butter.
74	tins spaghetti.	11	tins coffee.
1	tin ice wafers.	4	tins beverages.
9	tins powdered milk.	1	tin mustard.
1	tin ground ginger.	11	tins fish cakes.
1	tin pudding.	1	tin macaroni.
200	tins meat.	15	lbs. flour.
81 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs. cheese.	323 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs. preserves.
309 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. dried fruit.	10	lbs. fish roes.
17 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs. sugar.	157 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. mutton.
9	lbs. salt.	705	lbs. pudding and cake mixture.
329	lbs. tinned fruit.	155	lbs. fat extendor.
280	lbs. gelatine.	78	lbs. syrup.
122	lbs. dehydrated vegetables.	59	lbs. soup and gravy powder
36 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. chocolate spread.	2	lbs. angelica.
7	lbs. baking powder.	26	lbs. biscuits.
28	lbs. cake decorations.	12	lbs. coconut.
560 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. egg powder.	28	lbs. fondant.
2	lbs. ginger.	21	lbs. jelly piping.
24	lbs. table jelly.	56	lbs. marshmallow.
4	lbs. mustard.	144	lbs. dried peas.
12	lbs. arrocreme.	12	lbs. spice.
5	lbs. icing sugar.	4	lbs. curry powder.
8	lbs. tea, sugar, and milk.	6	lbs. dry flavouring.
28	lbs. salad powder.	7	lbs. lemonade powder.
17	lbs. sausages.	1,040	lbs. beef.
18	lbs. bacon.	4	lbs. honey.
9	lbs. butter.	193	lbs. pork.
2	lbs. suet.	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. cereals.
$\frac{1}{4}$	lb. tea.	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. cake.
39	lbs. self raising flour.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. margarine.
25	lbs. cherries.	40	lbs. soya ghetti.
90	lbs. liquorice sticks.	1,197	lbs. tinned pressed meats.
2	jars yeastlet.	47	jars salad cream.
41	jars pickles.	2	jars coffee.
1	jar sandwich spread.	7	jars meat paste.
1	jar preserved ginger.	1	jar malt and C.L.O. extract.
23	jars fish paste	2	jars Russian salad.
93	pkts. soup and gravy powder	231	pkts. bicarbonate of soda.
1	pkt. citron peel.	8	pkts. herbs.
48	pkts. cereals.	1	pkt. stuffing.

4	pkts. jelly crystals.	113	pkts. pudding and cake mixtures
60	pkts. potato crisps.	72	bottles essence.
3	bottles vinegar.	28	bottles sauce.
1	bottle ginger wine.	1	bottle orange juice.
6	gallons bean juice.	34½	stones wet fish.
27	cwts. powdered milk.	13	stones dried fish.
5	boxes chocolate bars.	3,409	eggs.
24	Australian rabbits.	305	ice cream blocks.
18	French cheescs.	4	sausage rolls.
16	meat pies.	17	chocolate rolls.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year 482 infested premises have been visited and 2,439 poison points laid.

Factories Act, 1937.

15 inspections have been made at bakehouses.

210 „ „ „ „ factories and workplaces.



